



#### Board of Directors

#### Officers

Francis "Bus" Spaniola,  
President  
Corunna

Tom Truscott,  
Vice-President  
Lansing

Keith G. Harrison,  
Secretary  
Holt

Richard S. Johnson,  
Treasurer  
East Lansing

#### Directors

David H. Brickey,  
Ewart

Adriana Greci Green  
Detroit

Larry Griffin  
Lansing

Charles Seeley  
Lansing

Tom Shawver  
Lansing

Ralph Sims  
Lansing

Louise W. Stilwill  
East Lansing

Paul M. Tarr, Jr  
Lansing

Morris Thomas  
Lansing

Bill Wellman  
East Lansing

Geneva Kebler Wiskemann  
Lansing



# *Friends of Michigan History, Inc.*

## **Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

Michigan Historical Museum

Lansing, Michigan

July 14, 2008

### **Call to Order**

President Bus Spaniola called the Board of Directors (Board) meeting of the Friends of Michigan History Inc. (Friends) to order at 10:08 A.M.

*Board Members Present:* Keith Harrison, Richard Johnson, Larry Griffin, Charles Seeley, Ralph Sims, Bus Spaniola, Paul Tarr, Morris Thomas, Tom Truscott.

*Board Members Absent:* David Brickey, Adriana Greci Green, Tom Shawver, Louise Stilwill, Bill Wellman, and Geneva Kebler Wiskemann.

*Board Members Excused:* Adriana Greci Green, Tom Shawver, Louise Stilwill, Bill Wellman, and Geneva Kebler Wiskemann.

*Michigan Historical Museum (Museum) Staff Present:* Chris Dancisak.

*Others Present:* State Archivist Mark Harvey.

### **Approval of Agenda**

***A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda as presented; motion passed.***

### **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

***A motion was made and seconded to approve as transmitted the minutes from the June 2008 Board meeting; motion passed.***

### **President Report**

President Spaniola stated that he had received the signed 2008/2009 agreement between the Friends, Museum, and the Michigan Historical Foundation. He gave the contract to Secretary Harrison for filing. He also indicated that at the end of the meeting, he would be mailing the letter application to the Internal Revenue Service requesting a Group Exemption Number for the Friends. Additional activities of the President would be reported on further into the meeting.

### **Treasurer Report**

The Treasurer presented the financial report for June.

BALANCE	6-01-08	11,343.41
Deposit	6-16-08	<u>+437.05</u>
Total		11,780.46

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## Treasurer Report continued

Total (from previous page)				11,780.46
Cashed Checks				
	#1371	Walker Tavern	33.20	<u>- 33.20</u>
BALANCE		6-30-08		11,747.26
Uncashed Checks				
	1368	G. Kearns	150.00	
	1369	K. Markkanen	150.00	
	1370	B. Brown	<u>150.00</u>	
			\$450.00	<u>-450.00</u>
AVAILABLE FUNDS				11,297.26

***A motion was made and seconded to approve the Treasurer's report as presented; motion passed.***

The Treasurer presented the Friends' Annual Financial Report for 2007-2008.

BALANCE CHECKING ACCOUNT 7-01-07		\$ 13,557.62
INCOME FROM DUES AND CONTRIBUTIONS		<u>+ 14,085.45</u>
TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDS		\$ 26,643.07
EXPENDITURES		
DONATIONS	\$ 750.00	
FAYETTE CHAPTER	312.60	
WALKER TAVERN	1,014.91	
ADMINISTRATION	940.82	
MUSEUM PROGRAMS	5,269.69	
FOMH PROGRAMS	597.05	
CIVIL WAR MUSTER	825.74	
ARCHIVES	<u>6,185.00</u>	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$15,895.81	<u>- 15,895.81</u>
BALANCE CHECKING ACCOUNT 6-30-08		\$ 11,747.26
UNCASHED CHECKS (History Awards)	\$ 450.00	<u>- 450.00</u>
AVAILABLE FUNDS	6-30-087	\$ 11,297.26

***A motion was made and seconded to approve the Friends Annual Financial Report as presented; motion passed.***

## Presentation of Bills

No bills were presented for payment.

## Museum Report New

Chris Dancisak indicated that the Museum was moving forward on its roadside attractions exhibit. Businesses over 50 years in existence and unique food businesses are included in the

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exhibit. Supporting organizations include American Road Magazine, Booth Newspapers, and the Friends.

Chris stated that the department finally has a budget for this year. Next fiscal year is going to be a problem though.

An extensive general discussion took place reaffirming the need for a central state or local organization to step up in order to promote and help foster fund raising for all public and private historical organizations. Given the state of Michigan's economy, there is a concern that there needs to be presented a concerted front to local and state funding entities in order to make any headway. It was indicated that the Friends, Foundation, and the Michigan History Commission need to join forces to deal with the Michigan Legislature in terms of ensuring adequate funding for the state's history programs. It was felt that once the upcoming election is over, the Friends (and possibly in conjunction with the Foundation and History Commission) need to invite the Legislators to a reception solely for the purpose of educating them as to what we do and the need for what we do in state government.

### **Committee Reports**

A. *2008 Veterans Day Program Committee (Paul Tarr and Tom Shawver – Co chairs):* Paul is still working on a speaker. It was suggested that he contact Board member, Geneva Kebler Wiskemann, regarding the person she had mentioned at the May meeting.

B. *Membership Committee (Keith Harrison – Chair):* Ralph Sims indicated that the annual June Thirteenth event went fairly well. Larry Griffin indicated that the sign for the Friends' display cost \$70.90 but that he will donate that to the Friends. Larry was requested to provide a receipt to Friends' Treasurer Dick Johnson and he would prepare a donation receipt letter for Larry. Keith Harrison indicated that the next seven events where the Friends' Display will be are presented below.

**July 15, 16, 17, 2008 – Ag Expo**

**East Lansing, Michigan (Michigan State University)**

**Tuesday from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM**

**Wednesday from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM**

**Thursday from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM**

**All Day Event (All three Days)**

**No cost to the Friends to set up display**

**Contact: Friends' Board Member Charles Seeley <517-321-9586**

**Board Display staffing: Keith Harrison, Charles Seeley, Morris Thomas, Paul Tarr**

**August 2, 2008 - African-American Parade & Picnic**

**Lansing, Michigan (Ferris Park)**

**Parade and picnic are sponsored by the Capital City African-American Cultural Association.**

**Set up for the picnic begins at 9:00 AM. The parade begins at 11:00 AM**

**All Day Event**

**No cost to Friends to set up display**

**Contact: Friends' Board Member Ralph Sims <SIMSR@michigan.gov>**

**Board Display staffing: Ralph Sims, Keith Harrison,**

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August 23, 24, 2008 - Civil War Muster  
Jackson, Michigan (Jackson Cascades Park)  
Saturday 9 AM – 4 PM  
Sunday 10 AM – 4 PM  
24th Annual Civil War Muster  
Set up same as last year - in the Band Shell.  
All Day Event (both days)  
No cost to the Friends to set up display  
Contact: Friends' Board Member Keith Harrison <pcinc@prodigy.net>  
**Board Display staffing: Keith Harrison (set up and take down only both days)**

September 6, 7, 2008 - Founder's Day and Sesquicentennial of Corunna  
Corunna Michigan  
Saturday – Times are unknown at this time  
Sunday – Times are unknown at this time  
All Day Event (both days)  
No cost to the Friends to set up display  
Contact: Friends' Board Member Bus Spaniola <busman4@verizon.net>  
**Board Display staffing: Bus Spaniola**

October 4, 2008 - Jeff Haas Trio Musical Fund Raising Program.  
State Library/Museum, Lansing  
More information to follow.  
**Board Display staffing:**

October 19, 2008 - Barnes and Nobel Book Signing Fund Raiser  
One of the two Barnes and Nobel Book Stores in Lansing  
Possibly with Lauri Perkins, who wrote book on the *Wreck on the Wabash*.  
More information to follow.  
**Board Display staffing:**

November 7, 8, 2008 - Oral History for Michigan: A Conference  
Rogers City, Michigan (Grambau Education Center 251 West Huron Avenue)  
Saturday – Times are unknown at this time  
Sunday – Times are unknown at this time  
All Day Event (both days)  
No cost to the Friends to set up display  
Contact: Friends' Board Member Geneva Kebler Wiskemann  
<gwiskemann@arq.net>  
**Board Display staffing: Geneva Kebler Wiskemann, Bill Wellman**

Secretary Harrison indicated that Jennifer Sochor was working on a new brochure for the Friends.

C. *Board Nominating Committee* (Charles Seeley appointed). No report.

D. *Magazine/Military Committee* (Paul Tarr – Chair). Paul Tarr indicated that he is working on getting more magazines to be sent to Michigan troops. Board member Larry Griffin indicated that he would assist Paul.

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E. *Grants Committee (Adriana Greci Green - Chair)*. No report.

F. *Newsletter Committee (Paul Tarr and Tom Shawver – Co Chairs)*. President Spaniola requested that the next newsletter was in need of articles and asked Board members to submit material to Jennifer Sochor.

G. *Fund Raising Committee (Bus Spaniola - Chair)*. President Spaniola talked about the upcoming October 4th Jeff Haas Trio program that will be used as a fund raiser for the Friends. Lansing's Community College radio station (WLNZ) is helping with the arrangements and underwriting of the program. Also, the Michigan State Credit Union will be contacted as a possible underwriter. President Spaniola indicated that there might be a need for the Friends to upfront a portion of the money for the program. It was indicated that authorization already existed from the June meeting to expend funds on this program so an additional motion was not needed at this time. There also was the possibility of having Michigan author Dave Dempsey there to sign his newest book on Michigan.

President Spaniola indicated that he was still working with Collette travel regarding possible trips that could benefit the Friends financially (whereby Friends members could receive percentage discounts on travel packages). This could be done in a number of ways, including placing an insert into our Newsletter. Similarly, an arrangement could be made and advertised in our Newsletter to help promote Michigan History with a tour of the Friends' affiliates and other Michigan history locations.

### **Old Business**

*Events*. President Spaniola stated that he still is in discussions with author Lauri Perkins, who wrote book on the *Wreck on the Wabash*, about putting on a book signing program. The tentative date is October 19, 2008.

B. *License Plates*. Currently, the bill to establish the license plate is still pending.

C. *IRS Group Exemption Application Status*. The Letter application to the Internal Revenue Service was completed and will be mailed today.

D. *Conservation of Historical Photographs*. State Archivist Mark Harvey provided a brief update on the state's Leavenworth Program. Freezers have been purchased and should be arriving next week. A total of 236 cubic feet of storage will be made available with the new freezers. He stated the Archives is actively seeking funding from several sources for this program but that he is hopeful that the Friends might be able to assist financially again.

E. *Telephonic Board Attendance*. Nothing has changed since the last meeting. The Board's current meeting location on the 1st floor of the Museum does not have telephonic capability.

### **New Business**

There was no new business.

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**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:04 PM.

Respectively submitted,

*Keith G. Harrison*

Keith G. Harrison, Secretary  
Board of Directors  
Friends of Michigan History, Inc.

**The next Regular Board meeting will be Monday, August 11, 2008, in Lansing.**